Frenchman's Creek Fish Passage Project Coastal Conservancy Staff Recommendation November 9, 2006

<u>Supplemental Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring Program</u> (California Environmental Quality Act)

Supplemental Mitigation Measures

The Frenchman's Creek Fish Passage project site is within the known range of the San Francisco garter snake (Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia), a species listed as Endangered by both state and federal governments and additionally considered as Fully Protected, pursuant to Section 5050 of the California Fish and Game Code. Fully Protected animals may not be taken for any purpose, except scientific studies. In order to ensure that no take occurs, the following measures must be followed:

- 1) All work must be observed by a qualified biological monitor. The monitor must be approved by the California Department of Fish and Game and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. If work will take place at more than one location, each area must have at least one monitor. The standard to be met is that the number of monitors present in all parts of each work area must be sufficient to ensure that all of each area can be observed.
- 2) Prior to the commencement of work each day, the monitor or monitors must survey the work area to ensure no San Francisco garter snakes (SFGS) are in the vicinity.
- 3) All vegetation must be removed by hand. Chain saws are allowed, but no machinery that disturbs the ground surface or travels along the ground surface may be used until enough vegetation has been removed so that the ground is clearly visible.
- 4) Surface streets and paved areas shall be used to the greatest extent practicable for staging, storage and parking. If not practicable, a staging area should be selected and cleared under the supervision of the monitor or monitors. The staging area must be isolated with a fence that includes a gate. All off-street parking, storage or staging shall be confined to this area.
- 5) Any vehicle or material that has been stationary for more than 15 minutes anywhere in the work area must be checked by the monitor for the presence of SFGS prior to moving it.
- 6) All workers on the job, including subs and new workers, must receive a short training from one of the monitors. The training should identify the special status species that may be present, tell how to recognize them and what to do if they are sighted. All snake sightings should be considered SFGS until confirmed one way or the other by the monitor. All workers should clearly understand what actions are to be taken if a snake is found in the work area.

7) If a snake is sighted in the work area, any actions that could result in harm to the snake must cease until the monitor identifies the snake. If the snake is not a SFGS, all work can recommence once the snake is removed from the area. If the snake is a SFGS, all work on the project must cease until DFG and USFWS are contacted.

<u>Supplemental Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</u> (California Environmental Quality Act)

On November 9, 2006, the State Coastal Conservancy adopted the above-described supplemental mitigation measures for the Frenchman's Creek Fish Passage project, in order to protect the San Francisco Garter Snake. This is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program required for those supplemental measures.

Monitoring and reporting requirements regarding the SFGS will be met by the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) project manager, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Contract Manager.

- 1) Prior to the commencement of work and in consultation with the biological monitor, the RCD shall:
- a) Inspect the vehicle staging area. The RCD shall ensure that the staging area is isolated with a fence that includes a gate, and that all off-street parking, storage or staging shall be confined to this area.
- b) Ascertain that all workers on the job have received training from the monitor about the special status species of the SFGS. The RCD shall ensure that the workers have been taught that they must contact the monitor and stop any actions that could result in harm to the snake if they see a snake. If the snake is identified as SFGS, all work must stop until DFG and USFWS are contacted.
- c) Review with the monitor the requirement that any vehicle or material that has been stationary for more than 15 minutes anywhere in the work area must be checked by the monitor for the presence of SFGS prior to moving it.
- 2) The RCD shall inspect the site each day that work is in progress to ensure that all work is being observed by a biological monitor approved specifically for SFGS monitoring by DFG and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some of these inspections shall be timed prior to the commencement of the day's work, to ensure that the monitor has surveyed the work area for San Francisco garter snakes before work begins.
- 3) The RCD shall inspect the work site while work is in progress to ensure that all vegetation is being removed by hand, or if machinery is being used, the ground is clearly visible.
- 4) Upon completion of the project, the RCD shall submit a written report to the Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy summarizing its compliance with these SFGS mitigation measures.